

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Quincy Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Running Crack Cocaine Business**

Springfield, IL - A Quincy, Illinois man was sentenced to natural life in prison today for running a crack cocaine business, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. Henry D. Johnson, age 32, formerly of Joliet, Illinois, was convicted following a jury trial in July 2005.

During today's sentencing, U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott characterized Johnson as having "expanded the drug trade in Quincy," in a crime that is "as serious as it gets."

U.S. Attorney Heaton stated, "Mr. Johnson's life of crime merits serious and uncompromising consequences. The U.S. Attorney's Office, working with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, remains focused and committed to putting these illegal enterprises out of business."

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the West Central Illinois Task Force, the Quincy Police Department, and Illinois State Police, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patricia A. McInerney.

Johnson was convicted of leading a distribution network for cocaine, crack cocaine and marijuana over a ten-year period. Evidence presented at trial established Johnson's membership and allegiance to the Black P-Stones gang and its leader. Trial evidence also showed that Johnson and others used a residence he managed for his mother, at 908 Chestnut, in Quincy, Illinois, to cook cocaine into crack and distribute it in Quincy.

In addition to operating a continuing criminal enterprise, Johnson was convicted on counts of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances (two counts); conspiracy to maintain a drug-involved premise (one count); use of telephone to facilitate a drug offense (three counts); maintaining a drug-involved premise (one count); distribution of marijuana (one count); and aiding and abetting the distribution of crack cocaine (one count.)

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